

FACT SHEET



**Bernstein Salvage
Oskaloosa, Iowa**

May 2000

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 plans to begin removing contaminated soil from the Bernstein Salvage site in June 2000. The 5.4-acre site, located in Oskaloosa, Iowa, is bounded by South E Street on the east, 3rd Avenue West on the south, 1st Avenue West on the north, and railroad tracks on the west. A mix of residential, light industrial, and commercial properties surround the site.

SITE BACKGROUND

A variety of businesses have operated at the site in the last 100 years including a boiler works, machine shop and foundry, heating plant manufacturer, gasoline station, small bulk oil facility, and poultry and feed businesses. A salvage company operated at the site from about 1950 to 1994.

In August 1997, the property owner arranged for soil samples to be taken at the site. Several structures had already been removed from the site, however, empty drums and piles of scrap metal remained. The sampling data indicated that lead and hydrocarbons were present in the soil. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) reviewed the sample results and, in December 1998, asked EPA to take action at the site.

EPA collected soil samples in March 1999 to confirm the previous findings and conducted additional soil sampling in August 1999. A number of contaminants were found including lead, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), heptachlor epoxide, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dieldrin, and antimony.

EPA has determined that the contaminants at this site pose a potential threat to human health and the environment. Because access to the site is unrestricted, it is possible to come into direct contact with the contaminated soil. Exposure to site contaminants may also occur by inhaling airborne dust particles that have migrated from the site. EPA will remove contaminated soil to reduce the threat that the site poses. Contaminants will be removed to levels that will allow the property to be used for purposes consistent with the city of Oskaloosa's comprehensive plan.

REMOVAL ACTIVITIES

Contaminated soil at the site will be excavated to depths of four feet where necessary. During the excavation, soil will be moistened, if necessary, to reduce fugitive dust emissions. The excavated soil will be stockpiled on site, covered, and sampled before being shipped to an appropriate disposal facility. Excavated areas will be backfilled with clean soil and covered with grass. The work is expected to take 2-3 months to complete.

EPA is conducting the removal activities at the Bernstein Salvage site under the Superfund program. Congress established the Superfund program in 1980 in response to growing concerns about health and environmental risks posed by hazardous waste sites. Superfund locates, investigates, and cleans up hazardous waste sites. The estimated one million dollars to conduct this removal will come from Superfund, however, EPA will attempt to identify potentially responsible parties who may be liable and seek reimbursement from them.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A file containing documents about the site, called the Administrative Record File, is available for public review at the following location:

Oskaloosa Public Library
301 S. Market Street
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information regarding this site, please contact:

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